

MR. BEAR: My name is Bill Bear. I'm a [indiscernible] business for 46 years. And I'm the third of a four generations of mining in my family. I would specifically like to see [indiscernible] address the cumulative impacts of the Coal Leasing Program. Specifically, the impacts of lack of leasing and restricting to -- restrictions of leasing. Many local communities have built school systems and other needed infrastructure on the continued mining of coal. What, if any, alternative will be offered to replace this lost revenue from the leasing and the mining of coal? Limiting or denying the leasing of coal destroys coal companies, as well as other related industries, such as transportation systems, including railroads. What impact will the reduction of [indiscernible] put on the rail have on the overall [indiscernible] and the cost of goods delivered to distant destinations? How will the Federal Government manage or pay to hold the cost related to transportation to what they are -- to what they were before the eliminating the lease of -- leasing of coal? Electric utilities have been able to supply low- cost power to their consumers, based on the fact that their two large users helped defray the utilities fixed cost. With the loss or the curtailing of these large users, the fixed costs are going to be dumped onto the little guy, driving up their cost. How many will be able to absorb the extra burden? The Programmatic EIS needs to address this and how the Federal Government and those driving this process are going to help pay for that. In Delta County, we are seeing vital support industries, such as medical, leaving. Doctors and their employees are leaving the area because they can no longer generate revenues to sustain their practices. A healthy mining community provides medical insurance to their employees as a benefit of their employee. With the diminishing job market for miners and subsequent cash flow streams to doctors and hospitals, these community resources are beginning to disappear. How will the Federal Government address this? The list goes on and on. But, the point is that the Programmatic EIS is responsible for addressing all impacts, including the negative impacts of the limits to leasing. And the BLM has a responsibility to identify these negative impacts and how they were mitigated and where the money will come to help pay for these actions. Thank you for the opportunity to speak.